The project has so far not received clearance by Ministry of Environment and Forests from environmental and forest angles. The State Government proposes to pose this project in the Private/Joint Sector. The completion schedule of the project is 8 years from the start of work.

As per CEA's techno-economic appraisal of Teesta Stage-V (3 x 170 MW) hydroelectric project in north Sikkim district, it is estimated to cost Rs. 1925.44 crores. The project has not yet received clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests from environmental and forest angles. The State Government has requested the Ministry of Power to get this project executed in the Central sector by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC). The completion schedule of the project is 8 years from the start of work.

Land Reform scheme

632. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the number of people benefitted under the Land Reform Scheme in Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): The information is being collected from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and same would be placed on the Table of the House.

Letters from MPs

633. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1622 dated July 24, 1996 regarding disposal of letters from Members of Parliament and state:

(a) the number of letters received by the Ministers of Finance, Railways, Animal Husbandry, Civil Supplies, Defence during 1996 and 1997 so far and the number out of of these are still pending for replies;

(b) whether the provisions of para 57 of the Manual of Office Procedures has been invoked in those cases and disciplinary procedures taken against the delinquent officials who failed to promptly deal with the letters of the MPs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) All ministries/Deptts. of Government of India are required to scrupulously observe guidelines laid down in the Manual of Office Procedure for sending prompt acknowledgement as well as final replies to letters received from the Members of Parliament. There exists no sysem for centralised tabulation of replies sent or still pending for reply in various government offices and offices of ministers, and so it is not possible to state in how many cases the letters received by concerned ministers are still pending for reply and whether any disciplinary action has been taken against the delinquent officials.

Bhabha Atomic Research Center

634. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is working on a project to ensure mass radiation protection for the population in the event of nuclear attack;

(b) if so, when the above decision was taken and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the BARC has secured/propose to secure knowhow from a foreign country; and

(d) if so, the name of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) There is no specific project on the subject referred to in part (a) of the question. However, research on radio protection characterisation by certain chemical and physical agents is being carried out.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Homelessness

635. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any National Housing Seminar on adequate shelter for all was organised during October, 1996, in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the outcome of the Seminar with regard to meeting the housing need of the people during the next five years; and

(c) the follow-up action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) A three-day National Housing Seminar on adequate shelter for all was held in New Delhi during October 7-9, 1996 to coincide with the World Habitat Day.

(b) and (c) The major outcome of the Seminar has been the clear cut identification of major issues regarding housing development process, be it related to land, housing finance, building materials and technology, access to infrastructure legal and regulatory framework of the delivery process and steps to resolve constraints. The recommendations of the National Housing Seminar, which relate to various aspects of housing and human settlement sector, will help the Central and the State Government informulating and implementing various policies and programmes to achieve the goal of Adequate Shelter for All within the

horizon of the Common Minimum Programme (CMP). Housing being a State subject, the recommendations have also been forwarded to the State Governments for necessary follow-up action at their end, in formulating State action plans.

[Translation]

Encounters

636. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of encounters which took place after formation of the new Government in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) the number of jawans/extremists/innocent people killed in these encounters; and

(c) the incidents in which Pakistan's intelligence agency has been found involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) According to available information there had been around 228 incidents of cross firing/encounters during the period from 16th October, 1996 to 15th February, 1997 in Jammu and Kashmir. 64 Security Force Personnel, 259 militants and 383 civilians were killed in incidents of terrorist related violence, encounters, during this period.

(c) The ISI has been consistently involved in fuelling, aiding and abetting terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir; it is not practically feasible to identify any specific incidents in this context.

[English]

Poverty Alleviation

637. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Steering Group has been constituted to look into the poverty alleviation and area development programmes in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the linkage of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) with Training of Rural Youths for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) is found not to be satisfactory; and

(d) if so, the reason thereof and the corrective measures contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) A Steering Group for the Ninth Plan was constitued by the Planning Commission to look into the poverty alleviation and area development programmes in rural areas. The Constitution of this Committee and its terms of reference is enclosed as Statement. The last meeting of the Steering Group chaired by Member, Rural Development took place on 19th November, 1996.

(c) and (d) One of the shortcomings of IRDP as revealed by the Fourth Round of the Concurrent Evaluation Survey (1992-93) is the poor linkage of IRDP with its allied schemes of TRYSEM and DWCRA. The Quick Evaluation of TRYSEM (June–August 1993) showed that of the total number of beneficiaries who got training under TRYSEM, roughly 54 per cent did not apply for loan under IRDP and of the remaining youth, about 50 per cent were given assistance under IRDP. The Concurrent Evaluation of IRDP indicated that only 56 per cent of the TRYSEM trained beneficiaries who were assisted under IRDP received assistance for the activity for which they were trained. A little more that 2 per cent of family members of IRDP beneficiaries were assisted under DWCRA.

The reason for a modest number of TRYSEM beneficiaries applying for loans under IRDP could be to that some of the TRYSEM beneficiaries for service in the organised sector or wage employment or have problems in approaching the banks for loans. In order to forge closer links between IRDP and TRYSEM, it has been emphasised that during the training period itself, the loan application forms of trainees be sent to the banks. Low coverage of IRDP beneficiaries under DWCRA could be related to the difficulties in mobilising women for group activities. The Ministry has emphasised thrift and credit activities as the rallying point for group activities. This should facilitate a closer link between IRDP and DWCRA.

Statement

No. M-12018/2/95-RD
Government of India
Planning Commission
Yojana Bhawan, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi, 24th Jan., 1996.

ORDER

Subject:- Constitution of Steering Group on Poverty Alleviation and Area Development in Rural India for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

In pursuance of the decision taken by the Planning Commission vide circular No. 11016/12/95-PC dated 30-9-1995, it is proposed to set up a Steering Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Area Development in Rural India for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

II. The composition of the Steering Group will be as follows:

1. Dr. Jayant Patil, Member, Planning Commission, New Delhi. — Chairman